

50 Days Ablaze



God's Grace . . . Our Response

A Small Group Study Guide

LCMS World Missions
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A Video Course
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Notes for Leaders

Why Use This Course?

God's Grace . . . Our Response was developed to help congregations find ways to get involved in God's mission. There are many LCMS congregations that are interested in God's mission, but don't really know how they can help involve their members. Some of them have too narrow a view of what mission involvement is (for example, only "giving" or only "going"). Others are wondering what first steps to take. This video is designed to help.

God's Grace . . . Our Response shows seven different ways congregations can get involved in God's mission. These ways are called "mission responses," because they are ways people respond to God's gracious love in Jesus Christ—that is, by becoming actively involved in the effort to bring the news of that grace to everyone in the world. The seven responses are learning, praying, giving, telling, sending, going, and celebrating.

The video segments feature LCMS congregations that are strong in that particular response. Viewers have a chance to see the congregation in action learning, praying, giving, telling, sending, going, or celebrating, and also to listen to congregational leaders talk about how their members got started with their involvement. Among the LCMS congregations featured are both large and small congregations, black and white, rural, suburban and urban, from places across the United States. All are actively involved in God's mission.

Through this video, we hope that participants will:

- Discover at least one mission response that they believe could be developed in our congregation
- Suggest ideas for the congregation to become more involved in missions and pass them on to the Implementation Team
- Get a glimpse of what God could do with their congregations in the future concerning the mission responses.

Group Sessions

This study guide includes seven sessions—one for each of the mission responses. Each session should be about an hour long. Each section includes reading material, Bible verses a five- to eight-minute video segment, and discussion questions.

The group should have a way to display their ideas during the group session (i.e., butcher block paper or poster board). Following the session, the group leader should record the ideas on the Implementation Team's form and turn it in.

(Note: Be sure to take time for all of the group members to meet each other. You may want to have members take turns bringing refreshments.)

Materials

Among the items you'll want to have on hand are:

- TV and VCR or DVD player
- Study guides
- Bibles
- Paper
- Pens or pencils
- Butcher block paper or poster board

Implementation Team

An Implementation Team has been appointed, consisting of the Evangelism Board and some church leaders. Their role will be to gather and organize ideas generated by the small groups, assess and prioritize their potential and recommend a mission involvement plan for the congregation.

Benefits of Using This Video Course

The more people who use this video, the better it will be for your congregation's mission involvement. Many of these mission responses depend on the support of key leaders in your congregation's worship life, administration, Sunday school, Bible studies and small groups. In the long run, every member has a role to play in the congregation's total mission involvement. We hope that this video's impact will last beyond the several weeks of the course, eventually strengthening the whole congregation's mission response.

God's Grace . . . Our Response

We love because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

Introduction

Leader: Have the group read through this introduction before beginning Session One.

As Christians, all of us have received God's grace. We all know the story of how much God loved us--so much that He sent His only Son Jesus to become a man, and to live, die, and rise again for our sake. We know that God has taken away our sin and made us part of His own family, though we've done nothing to deserve it. This is what we call grace. We didn't earn it or work for it--it comes to us purely through God's great love for us.

Now that we are God's own children, God has given us other gifts as well. One of them is the privilege of being part of His mission to the world. God doesn't need us, but because of His grace, He gives us the privilege of working with Him to bring other people to faith in Jesus Christ. And as we get involved in God's mission, we experience the joy that comes from pleasing the God who loves us. We respond to God's love for us by getting involved in God's mission to the world.

There are actually seven main ways that people get involved in God's mission:

The first mission response is *learning*. We can get involved in God's mission by learning about the mission--about the mission challenges, the opportunities, and what the church is doing to reach lost people with the Gospel. This is a very important response, because it forms the foundation for everything else we do in mission.

The second response is *praying*. We can pray for God's mission as individuals and as a congregation. We can focus on specific countries or missionaries, or on mission challenges like reaching Muslims and Buddhists. This mission response is extremely important, because God has told us to pray for His mission. Again and again LCMS missionaries write and say, "Please keep praying for us, it's really making a difference."

Then there's *giving*. When we give to support missionaries, mission projects, or mission work in general, we are making it possible for more people to hear the Gospel. We share in the service of our missionaries.

The fourth response is *telling*. Whenever we tell about what God is doing in mission, we encourage others to get involved too. We help them to understand the incredible things that the Holy Spirit is doing to bring lost people to faith.

The fifth mission response is *sending*. Sending is what we do whenever we notice that others have the gifts to serve as a missionary, and we encourage them to think about doing that.

Sending is also what we do when we write to missionaries, encourage them, and care for them when they're on home leave. Our sending supports the mission service they do.

Then we have *going*. We go into God's mission whenever we ourselves serve as missionaries, whether it's overseas or right here in our own backyards. Some people go as volunteers, or as career missionaries; others go on short-term mission trips for a few days or weeks. All of these are responding to God's grace by going.

The last way we respond to God's grace is by *celebrating*. We can celebrate God's mission during worship together, whenever we remember all the things He has done to bring lost people to Himself. We can also celebrate God's mission when we have special events, such as mission fairs and festivals. It's right that we should thank and praise God for everything He's doing to bring lost people to faith in Jesus Christ.

You've probably noticed that many of the responses overlap each other a bit—for example, you can't really pray unless you learn a little about the people you're praying for, and you can't go very effectively unless someone's there to send you. In this way, one mission response leads to another, until a congregation gets involved in all seven.

That's just a quick overview of seven ways we can respond to God's love and get involved in God's mission. During the upcoming weeks, we'll be learning more about each response. We'll also be thinking of ideas for how our congregation can be involved in each of the mission responses.

In this video series we'll be seeing LCMS congregations from across the country. Each one of them is strong in a particular mission response. As we watch and listen to how they are involved in mission, we may find some ideas that will work for us too. We will pass our ideas along to an Implementation Team that has been appointed to start planning how we can implement them in our congregation.

Session 1 - Learn

*Come and see what God has done,
how awesome His works in man's behalf!
(Psalm 66:5)*

Leader: Begin with prayer, then read the following, or have participants take turns reading.

One of the ways we get involved in God's mission is by learning about it. There are several different ways we can learn about God's mission.

Learn About God's Mission

1. What is God's view of the world?

- *Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31*
- *Romans 8:19-21*
- *John 3:16*

When God looks at the world, He sees the people He sent His Son to redeem. This includes us personally, since we are part of that world. It also includes everyone else for whom Jesus died and rose again.

2. What is God's mission for the world?

- *1 Timothy 2:3-4*

So we can see that God wants everyone to be saved through Jesus Christ our Lord. That's why God's mission is so important.

This isn't the only place in the Bible that talks about God's mission for the world. It would be easy to do a Bible study on God's mission plan from Genesis through Revelation.

3. Who are the people God cares about? Where are they?

- *Psalm 2:8*
- *Matthew 28:18-20*
- *Acts 1:8*
- *Revelation 7:9-10*

Here we can see that God cares about all nations and people groups. It could take our congregation a lifetime just to start learning about these different groups, since there are so many in the world. What we could do is to focus on one or two of them and get to know them in depth.

4. What is God's Church doing in the World?

- *Psalm 96*
- *Matthew 5:14-16*
- *Mark 16:15*
- *Luke 24:47*
- *Acts 8:4*

How are Christians, and specifically the LCMS, bringing God's Word to His world today? To answer this, we can learn about LCMS mission work around the world. We can learn more about what is being done and where.

5. Who are missionaries? What do they do?

- *Matthew 5:13-16*
- *John 4:28-30; 39-42*
- *Acts 8:4*
- *1 Corinthians 1:23*
- *1 Corinthians 3:6-10*
- *1 Corinthians 12:4-11*

So many people have mistaken or outdated ideas of what missionary service is like. By learning more about LCMS missionaries and their service, we can correct those mistakes and get a glimpse of the challenging but joyful tasks they carry out. We can also find ways to get involved ourselves with their mission service, since we too are missionaries, people sent out by God.

Now let's take a few minutes to see how some other LCMS congregations are getting involved in God's mission through learning.

Leader: Show the video segment at this point. When you finish, have the group work through the following discussion questions. Close the session with prayer.

Discussion Questions

1. What did you find especially helpful, interesting, or inspiring about the congregational model in the video?
2. Were there any ideas in the video that we could adapt to use in our own congregation? If so, how?
3. In what ways is our congregation involved right now in *learning* about God's mission? (Be sure to include children's activities.)
4. From what you saw in the video, what benefits do you think our congregation might experience if we got more deeply involved in learning about God's mission? What benefits would there be for the world?

Session 2 - Pray

*Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord
may spread rapidly and be honored,
just as it was with you. (2 Thessalonians 3:1)*

Leader: Begin with prayer, then read the following, or have participants take turns reading.

Another way we can get involved with God's mission is through prayer. God has given a wonderful gift to His church by inviting us to pray to Him. We know that we can ask for whatever we need, and that includes needs related to God's mission.

Pray for God's Mission

1. For unbelievers we know
2. For a specific people group, mission field, or mission need
3. For world evangelization
4. For ourselves to be better witnesses
5. For missionaries, national leaders and their families
6. For God to send out more missionaries

As you can see, the first three focus on people who need to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. We pray for them, asking God to bring them to faith. We pray for people near to us in our own community and far away in the rest of the world.

We can also pray for specific people groups, such as international students, deaf people, or a group like Muslims or Buddhists. As we learn more about these special groups, it gets easier for us to care about them and pray for them in specific ways.

The last three focus on the people who are serving in God's mission. This includes us. We pray that God will make us better witnesses for Him as we live among our families, friends and coworkers. We ask Him to give us opportunities to tell others about Jesus. We also pray for missionaries and national workers, as well as their families. The one thing missionaries ask the most is, "Pray for us." They depend on us to pray for their spiritual, emotional, physical, family and ministry needs. This is extremely important. The last thing we pray for is for more missionaries to serve.

Look up and read the following verses:

- *Matthew 9:35-38*
- *2 Corinthians 4:7-18*
- *2 Thessalonians 3:1-2*

There are still many, many more people in the world who need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Eleven thousand different people groups have no Christian church among them, no Bible, and no real chance to hear about Jesus unless someone outside comes to tell them. Long ago someone came to us to tell us about Jesus. Now we pray for others, asking God to send missionaries to them.

There are lots of ways we can find out what to pray for in God's mission. LCMS World Mission has resources to help us get started praying. We can also pray for needs we find out about personally or through missionary newsletters. And we can pray for our members who are involved in God's mission.

Now let's take a few minutes to see how some other LCMS churches are getting involved in God's mission through prayer.

Leader: At this point, show the video segment. When it is finished, have the group work through the following discussion questions. End the session with prayer.

Discussion Questions

1. What did you find especially helpful, interesting, or inspiring about the congregational model in the video?
2. Were there any ideas in the video that we could adapt to use in our own congregation? If so, how?
3. In what ways is our congregation involved right now in *praying* for God's mission? (Be sure to include children's activities.)
4. From what you saw in the video, what benefits do you think our congregation might experience if we got more deeply involved in praying for God's mission? What benefits would there be for the world?
5. In the video Barbara Jensen said, "From a very young child, my parents taught me to pray." How are the children of our congregation being taught to pray? What more could we do in our own congregation to teach the children to pray?
6. Tell about a time you knew someone was praying for you and how it made a difference in your life. What difference do you think our prayers make to the lives and work of LCMS missionaries?

Session 3 - Give

*Thanks be to God for His indescribable Gift!
(1 John 4:19)*

Leader: Begin with prayer, then read the following, or have participants take turns reading.

Since Christians know that God has provided everything we have to use for His purposes, we have to decide how much we are to use for ourselves. Since God gave the ultimate—His own dear Son—to free us from the guilt of sin, we respond to His grace by giving to God that portion of our resources we commit to His work. His work—done through the Holy Spirit—brings others to faith in Jesus.

Our offerings and gifts are a big part of the reason that LCMS missionaries and our partners work in more than 60 countries around the world. These offerings support career and volunteer missionaries who bring the Good News of Jesus to lost people. There are lots of different ways we can give.

Give to God's Mission

1. To support local, district, and international mission efforts
2. To special mission projects in LCMS mission fields
3. To support an LCMS missionary family

We can support mission efforts within our community or district or city. We can also support God's mission overseas as individuals or through our congregation with a special mission offering or ongoing support of a missionary.

If we want to get more personally involved in where the money is going, we can sponsor a mission project. LCMS World Mission has hundreds of projects for work around the world that depend on our gifts. By adopting one of these projects, we can help train a pastor, build a chapel, or provide Sunday school materials for a child in Russia.

We can also adopt a missionary family. There's a special program called Together In Mission (TIM) that allows congregations to build a special relationship with one missionary family. Participation in TIM allows members to give to support them, pray for them, write to them, and visit with them when they return on home service.

Look up and read the following verses:

- *Matthew 6:33-34*
- *Acts 4:32-37*
- *1 Corinthians 16:1-3*
- *2 Corinthians 8:1-15*
- *Philippians 4:10-19*

Let's look now at how others have been involved in giving to God's mission.

Leader: At this point, show the video segment. When it is finished, have the group work through the following discussion questions. End the session with prayer.

Discussion Questions

1. What did you find especially helpful, interesting, or inspiring about the model of giving in the video?
2. Were there any ideas in the video that we could adapt to use in our own congregation? If so, how?
3. In what ways is our congregation involved right now in *giving* to God's mission? (Be sure to include children's activities.)
4. From what you saw in the video, what benefits do you think our congregation might experience if we got more deeply involved in giving to God's mission? What benefits would there be for the congregation, community, nation, world?
5. What motivates people to give to God's mission? What motivates you?

Session 4 - Tell

From Attalia [Paul and Barnabas] sailed back to Antioch where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. And they stayed there a long time with the disciples. (Acts 14:26-28)

Leader: Begin with prayer, then read the following, or have participants take turns reading.

The first Christian missionaries told the mission story. When the early church sent out missionaries, they had to wait months and years before the missionaries came back and told them what God had done through their service.

The church at Antioch did this when they sent out Paul and Barnabas. After they finished their service, they came home again and told the story of God's mission.

Telling the Mission Story

Today we have an advantage the early church didn't have. We don't have to wait months and years to hear what God is doing through mission work around the world. Now we have telephones, e-mail, video, photos, and printed material to help us tell the mission story.

So how do we tell the mission story? We can do this in several ways.

1. Tell our fellow members about God's Mission
 - a. First, we can collect up-to-date mission information and give it to our members. There are resources we can order from LCMS World Mission to get up-to-date information. We can also do this by visiting the LCMS World Mission Web site. Then we can take what we learn and share it with our members in presentations, in the bulletin, in the newsletter and in many other ways.
 - b. Another thing we can do is to invite missionaries to tell the story of what God is doing where they serve. We can get their newsletters, have them come to speak to us, and maybe even arrange a phone call or Web cast from the field. LCMS World Mission can help us form relationships with missionaries.
2. Tell about what we've learned by being involved in God's Mission
 - a. Still another thing we can do is to share our own stories of how being in God's mission has affected our lives. For example, if you go on a short mission trip to Guatemala, when you come back you can tell the rest of the congregation what it was like and what you learned from the trip.
3. What happens when we tell the mission story?

- a. First of all, *it encourages the church*. The mission story is good for the church. To hear what God is doing through our missionaries strengthens our faith and encourages us to live as God's witnesses right here as well.
- b. The second thing that happens is that we start to see how God could use us individually in His mission. People who maybe never thought of missionary service before start thinking, "I could do that." Others start praying regularly for missionaries and the people they serve. Still others give money, time and effort to support world mission.

Look up and read the following verses:

- *Acts 14:26-28*
- *Acts 11:1-18*
- *Acts 11:19-22*

Now let's see how some other LCMS congregations are involved in telling the mission story.

Leader: At this point, show the video segment. When it is finished, have the group work through the following discussion questions. End the session with prayer.

Discussion Questions

1. What did you find especially helpful, interesting, or inspiring about the congregational model in the video?
2. Were there any ideas in the video that we could adapt to use in our own congregation? If so, how?
3. In what ways is our congregation involved right now in telling about God's mission? (Be sure to include children's activities.)
4. From what you saw in the video, what benefits do you think our congregation might experience if we got more deeply involved in telling about God's mission? What benefits would there be for the world?
5. What other ways would you like to tell the mission story in your congregation that weren't shown in the video?
6. Where would be the best places to involve your congregation in telling the mission story? List as many opportunities as you can think of. (Some places to consider: regular worship service, special worship services, Sunday school, day school, weekday school, VBS, and in homes of your families.)

Session 5 - Send

In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen . . . and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.
(Acts 13:1-3)

Leader: Begin with prayer, then read the following, or have participants take turns reading.

One mission response that a lot of people overlook is sending. Sending people into God’s mission is critical. There would be few missionaries if there were no one to send them. The support that a sending church gives to missionaries is absolutely essential to their service.

Send to God’s Mission

The early church sent out many missionaries like Paul and Barnabas. But they didn’t just send them and forget about them! The church was involved with its missionaries’ work all the way. There are three ways our congregation could get involved in God’s mission by sending.

1. By identifying family, friends and congregation members we know who might have the gifts to serve as missionaries
2. By encouraging them to consider missionary service
3. By caring for missionaries and their families through writing, hosting, and seeking additional involvement ideas to aid the missionaries’ work.

The first way we can get involved is by identifying people who might be gifted to serve as missionaries. Chances are that there’s someone—maybe several people—in our congregation who would do a great job serving this way. They may be students, older people, married couples, or almost anyone. God has given them the gifts they need to do a great job serving as missionaries. As a sending church, our role would be to identify these people.

Once we’ve identified people, our next job would be to encourage them to think about missionary service. Sometimes people just don’t think about serving this way until a friend says to them, “You know, you’d really make a good missionary.” As a sending church, we can encourage people to look into this form of service. We can also help them with the first steps along the way, such as calling LCMS World Mission to find out what service opportunities are open.

Our sending doesn’t stop when a missionary gets to the field though! We continue that role when we support missionaries by writing to them, encouraging them, and finding other ways to help. It can be such an encouragement when missionaries know that a congregation is praying

for them and writing to them. It helps them keep the connection with the church back home that sent them.

A sending congregation is like the launching pad for a rocket. Without it, the rocket would never get off the ground. In the same way, our prayers, support, and encouragement help missionaries begin their service and continue in it.

Look up and read the following verses:

- *Acts 13:1-3*
- *Acts 14:26-28*
- *Acts 18:27-28*
- *2 Corinthians 11:9*
- *Philippians 2:19-24*
- *Colossians 4:7-9*

Now let's look at an LCMS congregation that is strongly involved in sending people to God's mission.

Leader: At this point, show the video segment. When it is finished, have the group work through the following discussion questions. End the session with prayer.

Discussion Questions

1. What did you find especially helpful, interesting, or inspiring about the congregational model in the video?
2. Were there any ideas in the video that we could adapt to use in our own congregation? If so, how?
3. In what ways is our congregation involved right now in *sending* people into God's mission? (Be sure to include children's activities.)
4. From what you saw in the video, what benefits do you think our congregation might experience if we got more deeply involved in sending people into God's mission? What benefits would there be for the world?
5. How can we identify members in our congregation to send into mission? Who would need to be involved, and how could we get them involved?
6. How can our congregation encourage its members to consider missionary service?
7. How can our members support missionaries?

Session 6 - Go

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19a)

Leader: Begin with prayer, then read the following, or have participants take turns reading.

Yet another mission response our congregation can get involved in is going. We can go into God’s mission in several different ways.

Where Should We Go?

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

This is what Jesus said to his disciples just before he returned to heaven. Notice the order he used. The disciples were to start their mission service in Jerusalem, among their own neighbors. Then they would go a little farther away, into Judea and Samaria where the people were a little different from them. Finally God’s mission would take them to the very ends of the earth.

This verse has meaning for us too as Jesus’ disciples. We, too, can go into God’s mission in four different areas. We start with our own local community, with our neighbors here in *[name of your city or town.]* This is our Jerusalem.

We can also go into God’s mission among people who are a little further away, a little more different from us. If *[name of your city or town]* is our Jerusalem, then what would you say is our congregation’s Judea and Samaria?

- Our county or state
- Local ethnic or immigrant groups
- Nearby universities and colleges
- Deaf or blind people near us
- Other: _____

The last place we can go into God’s mission is “to the ends of the earth.” Today LCMS missionaries are serving in dozens of countries around the world. Some of them are volunteers who go for weeks, months, or even years. Some of them are career missionaries who go for the long haul.

Our congregation can get involved this way, too.

Go into God's Mission

1. Right now, to people we know who need Jesus near us
2. Wherever the Lord directs us to make disciples
3. By participating in short mission trips
4. By serving as long-term volunteer missionaries
5. By serving as career missionaries

Look up and read the following verses:

- *Psalm 68:11*
- *Psalm 71:15-18*
- *Isaiah 6:8*
- *Daniel 12:3*
- *John 4*
- *Romans 10:14-15*

LCMS World Mission can help us find out more about opportunities for going into God's mission, whether it's just for a couple of weeks or for a longer time. Now let's take a few minutes to see how some other LCMS congregations "go" into God's mission.

Leader: At this point, show the video segment. When it is finished, have the group work through the following discussion questions. End the session with prayer.

Discussion Questions

1. What did you find especially helpful, interesting, or inspiring about the congregational model in the video?
2. Were there any ideas in the video that we could adapt to use in our own congregation? If so, how?
3. In what ways is our congregation involved right now in going into God's mission? (Be sure to include children's activities.)
4. From what you saw in the video, what benefits do you think our congregation might experience if we got more deeply involved in going into God's mission? What benefits would there be for the world?

Session 7 - Celebrate

*I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations;
I will sing of you among the peoples. (Psalm 108:3)*

Leader: Begin with prayer, then read the following, or have participants take turns reading.

Another way we can get involved in God's mission is through celebrating. There are lots of things to celebrate. A few of them are listed for you on the sheet I handed out. Let's look at them now.

Celebrate God's Mission

1. That Jesus is alive
2. That we are children of God
3. That God has a wonderful job for us to do!

Look up and read the following verses:

- *Psalm 96*
- *Isaiah 55:10—12*
- *Isaiah 61:10-1*
- *Matthew 28:8-10*
- *Luke 10:1-3, 17, 21*
- *Luke 24:50-53*
- *Acts 2:42-47*
- *Acts 11:18, 22-24*
- *1 Peter 1:3-9*

Our mission response is based on what God has done for us. When Jesus died and rose again for us, when God made us his own children, that gave us something to celebrate! And since God has given us the privilege of taking this Good News to others, that's one more reason to celebrate.

As a congregation, we can celebrate God's mission in many different ways. We can have special mission worship services that focus on what God is doing to bring His Gospel to the nations. We can also include a mission emphasis in our regular services, through prayer and music and by having special speakers—for example, a missionary on home leave, or one of our own people who has just returned from a mission trip. We can also have special mission events such as mission fairs, where we could set up displays with information about LCMS mission work around the world. We could have special speakers. We could even have food and music from around the world.

As you can see, there are a lot of possibilities when it comes to celebrating God's mission. Let's take a few minutes now to see how some other LCMS congregations have made celebrating a part of their lives.

Leader: At this point, show the video segment. When it is finished, have the group work through the following discussion questions. End the session with prayer.

Discussion Questions

1. What did you find especially helpful, interesting, or inspiring about the congregational model in the video?
2. Were there any ideas in the video that we could adapt to use in our own congregation? If so, how? Can you come up with any not shown in the video?
3. In what ways is our congregation involved right now in celebrating God's mission? (Be sure to include children's activities.)
4. From what you saw in the video, what benefits do you think our congregation might experience if we got more deeply involved in celebrating God's mission? What benefits would there be for the world?

Thank you for participating in "50 Days Ablaze."

After our Implementation Team has gathered and assessed all of the groups' ideas, they will develop a plan for our congregation to be more involved in the seven mission responses.

Be sure to be a mission responder.
When the opportunity arises, be the first to raise your hand and volunteer.

May God's grace be upon you!